# REPORT

OF THE

# BRADFORD

# QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

OF THE

# CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

OF

# LATTER DAY SAINTS,

HELD IN BRADFORD, MARCH 9, 1851.

Bradford:

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1851.

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# REPORT.

The Bradford Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was held in the Latter-day Saints' Meeting Room, Butterworth's Buildings, Sun Bridge, Bradford, on Sunday, March 9th, 1851.

The meeting was opened by singing and prayer, after which it was moved by Elder Milnes, that Elder Robert O. Menzies preside over this Meeting of Conference: seconded and carried. It was moved by Elder Menzies that Elder Jonathan Midgley act as the Clerk for this Meeting of Conference: seconded and carried.

Elder Menzies, having made a few introductory remarks, called upon the Presidents of Branches to give a verbal representation of their respective Branches, and then to forward a written copy of the same to the Clerk. The reports were then given in as may be seen in the table of representations.

THE FOLLOWING IS A TABLE OF THE NUMBERS AND STANDING OF EACH BRANCH IN THE BRADFORD CONFERENCE.

| No. | Names of Branches | Names of Presidents. | Elders. | Priests. | Teachers | Deacons. | Members. | Total. | Baptized. | Received | Removed | Cut off. | Emigrat'd | Dead. | Donations to the Perpetual Emigratn. Fund. | | | Amt. due for Books to General Agent. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | £. | s. | d. | £. | s. | d. |
| 1 | Bradford ..... | Milnes ... | 19 | 14 | 20 | 4 | 257 | 314 | 13 | 14 | 12 | 10 | 1 | | 3 | 14 | 3½ | 11 | 6 | 11 |
| 2 | Leeds ..... | Menzies .. | 7 | 17 | 8 | 3 | 168 | 203 | 5 | 7 | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | 18 | 0 | 5 | 16 | 0 |
| 3 | Lye..... | Watson . | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 29 | 39 | | 1 | | | | | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 10 |
| 4 | Huddersfield .. | Day ..... | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 22 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 0 | 17 | 5 |
| 5 | Halifax ..... | Greenlay... | 4 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 22 | | 1 | 5 | | | | 0 | 7 | 3½ | 1 | 14 | 9 |
| 6 | Wakefield ... | Midgley ... | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 20 | 26 | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | 3 | 9 | 8 |
| 7 | Rodley ..... | O'Brien .. | 2 | 2 | | | 4 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Drighlington .. | Hepworth.. | 1 | 1 | | | 13 | 15 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | York ..... | Hodgson... | 3 | 2 | 1 | | 22 | 28 | | | 3 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 6 | 8 |
| 10 | Tadcaster ... | Spink ..... | 2 | | | | 3 | 5 | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | Horsforth ..... | Hillam ... | 1 | 2 | | | 4 | 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | Clayton ..... | Child ..... | 2 | | 1 | 1 | 10 | 14 | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 13 | 10 |
| 13 | Bingley ..... | Lord .... | 2 | 4 | 1 | | 9 | 16 | | | | 2 | | | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 7½ |
| 14 | Whitby ..... | Thompson. | 1 | | | | 10 | 11 | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | 0 | 6 | 3½ |
| 15 | Wilsden ..... | Wade ..... | 2 | 1 | | | 11 | 14 | 1 | | 5 | | | | 0 | 6 | 8 | | | |
| 16 | Warmfield ..... | Jackson ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 18 | 23 | 3 | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | 8 | | | |
| 17 | Heath Common .. | Frobyshire. | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 21 | 24 | 4 | | 1 | | | | 1 | 14 | 6 | | | |
| 18 | Wheldrake ..... | Beilby ... | 1 | 1 | | | 9 | 11 | | | | | 6 | | | | | | | |
| 19 | Ellerton ..... | Young .... | 1 | | | | 13 | 14 | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 59 | 59 | 40 | 14 | 644 | 816 | 38 | 30 | 29 | 14 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 17 | 5 | 26 | 8 | 0 |

The following resolutions were then passed, without one dissenting voice:—

Resolved;— That we uphold and sustain Brigham Young as the first President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in all the world; and Heber C. Kimball and Willard Richards as his Counsellors.

Resolved;— That we sustain Orson Hyde as President, and P. P. Pratt, Orson Pratt, Wilford Woodruff, John Taylor, George A. Smith, Amasa Lyman, Ezra T. Benson, Charles C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow, and Franklin D. Richards, as members of the quorum of the twelve Apostles.

Resolved—That we sustain Franklin D. Richards as President of the British Isles, and George B. Wallace and Levi Richards as his counsellors.

Resolved—That we uphold and sustain Robert O. Menzies as the President of this Conference.

Resolved—That we sustain by our faith, prayers, and means, Jos. Westwood, Jonathan Midgley, and William Heaton, as travelling Elders in this Conference.

Resolved—That we uphold by our confidence, faith, and prayers, the Presidents of the various branches in this Conference.

Resolved—That the various Presidents, with all the Elders, Priests, Teachers, Deacons, and Members, Covenant to uphold and sustain each other, and unitedly assist in rolling on the work of God in this Conference, by all possible means.

Resolved—That Joseph Westwood continue to labor in the district of country surrounding Halifax and Huddersfield, in conjunction with the Presidents of those branches.

Resolved—That Jonathan Midgley continue to preside over the Wakefield Branch, and also to take a charge over the Heath Common and Warmfield Branches, in connexion with the Presidents of the same, and to preach the Gospel in that region of country as opportunities may occur.

Resolved—That William Heaton continue to labour in York, Ellerton, Wheldrake, and sorrounding country, in connexion with the Presidents of those Branches.

Elder Menzies stated that one Joseph Emmerson had come into the Bradford Conference, bearing lines from Elder G. B. Wallace, authorizing him to act as a travelling Elder in any Conference in which his lot may be cast. Elder Emmerson having settled at Tadcaster, intended labouring in the Bradford Conference until he could find employment. Elder Menzies was sorry that he was not present, as it was his intention to have taken a vote of confidence in him in connection with the other Travelling Elders, but not having received any word from him, or of his whereabouts, and not knowing whether he had got employment or not, he was obliged to let his case stand over until he should receive further intelligence.

Elder Menzies called upon the Presidents to state what alterations and appointments they wish to be made in their various branches. He then stated that Elder Marsden, when President of this Conference, had also the watch-care of the Leeds Branch, and that since Elder Marsden had left this country, the charge of that Branch had rested upon him. He now thought that the Leeds Branch, being in a good condition, would be the better for having a President chosen from among themselves, to be always with them. The following motions were then put to the Meeting and unanamiously carried :—

1. That Elder Joseph Horton preside over the Leeds Branch.

2. That Daniel Garside, Priest, receive the office of Elder in the Halifax Branch.

3. That Thomas Young receive the office of a Teacher, and that Jonas Holdsworth receive the office of a Deacon, in the Leeds Branch.

4. That John Rhodes Watson, Richard Collins, John Rhodes, Alfred Goodyeard, Waterhouse Noble, John Widdop and Joseph Walker, Pudsey, receive the Office of Priest in the Bradford Branch.

5. That Wilyott Carr receive the office of Priest, and Bro. Fletcher the office of Teacher, in the York Branch.

6. That William Burton, Deacon, receive the office of Priest, and that John Mounteer, receive the office of Deacon, in the Warmfield Branch.

7. That William Buttle receive the office of Priest, and that George Bisset receive the office of Teacher, in the Ellerton Branch

8. That William Kendall receive the office of Priest, in the Heath Common Branch.

Joseph Bean and Barker Child having audited the Books of the General Agent, their Report was then given in as follows :—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| January 10th, 1851. Amount due at the Office, Liverpool, ... | 39 | 5 | 2 |
| Received in Books, &c., up to February 15th, ..... | 24 | 11 | 6½ |
| | £63 | 16 | 8½ |
| Paid at four instalments ..... | 18 | 0 | 0 |
| Balance due at the Office ..... | 45 | 16 | 8½ |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| The Amount due from the Branches to the General Agent | 26 | 8 | 0 |
| Stock on hand ..... | 16 | 17 | 3½ |
| Cash in hand ..... | 2 | 11 | 5 |
| | £45 | 16 | 8½ |

Elders Bean and Pears having audited the Treasurer's books, for the perpetual Emigration Fund, reported that the sums received from the various branches, as contained in the table, had been received at the Office at Liverpool.

It was resolved, that John Taylor be sustained as the General Book Agent for the Bradford Conference.

Resolved, also, that Joseph Beecroft be sustained as Treasurer, and Barker Child as Secretary for the Perpetual Emigration Fund in this Conference.

The meeting was closed by singing and thanksgiving by Elder Milnes.

## AFTERNOON.

In the afternoon, the Meeting being opened by singing and prayer, Elder Menzies rose and said, I would say to the Presidents of Branches, to be sure and either present themselves at the Conference Meetings, or else send in a definite report in writing containing all the items contained in the present representation, and also those which will be mentioned hereafter.* I also want the President of each branch, to see that the Sub-agent's Books be audited and the auditors' report be sent in to the General Agent, at least eight days before the quarterly conference.

I remarked in the forenoon that it is too often the case that we engage to do a thing, and, after we have partially tried it a few times, we fall back again into our original state of lethargy, and matters remain as they were. I do not want to see the saints run well for a time, and then get slack in the discharge of their duties. What we vote to do to day, I want to see carried out by the saints with all their might, mind and strength. I want to see no idle men among the Priesthood in this Conference. I do not see why there should be any. The Summer time is coming when there will be plenty of opportunity for out-door preaching, when we can have the canopy of heaven to preach under, and some good air.

I want the President of each Branch, upon his return home, to make such arrangements as shall secure employment for all the office bearers in his branch. The way I want you to do is this, give every man a piece of work to do and let him do it in his own way. Let him feel independent and free in the discharge of the duties of his own calling, even as free as the President of the branch himself, only let the President see that the work be done. Let every man feel himself as powerful and mighty in his sphere as God is in his, and go about his business as though he were master of it; and it is the duty of every man above to let him feel so, and not interfere with him unnecessarily in the discharge of his duties.

There is one thing upon my mind that I will lay before this Conference. I do not think that there is an over great exertion made to circulate the printed word, in this Conference. I am not disposed to find fault with the endeavours that have been made to do good. If we think that we have done a good deal for the furtherance of the work of God, I only wish that from this time, we set to work and accomplish more than we have done. If we be united, there is nothing that we purpose to perform, for the work of God, but what we are fully able to accomplish.

The matter that I have to lay before you has a two-fold object in it. This Conference is at present owing the Star office at Liverpool £45 16s 8½d. for Books, Stars, &c. If we could by any means make a monster collection, and purchase from our agents the old stock of Stars, Tracts, &c., we would thus be paying off a part of the old debt, and at the same time, be putting ourselves in possession of a large number of tracts. A great proportion of the people desire to know something of our history as a people, and also what we are about, and by using the Stars as tracts we shall be putting them in possession of the same means of information as we have for ourselves; besides, the Public think that there are mysteries contained in these publications which we are afraid to allow the word the opportunity of investigating, and I believe that, by means of their circulation, it will help to overcome their prejudice.

Well I'll tell you how I have felt about it, how I think that the money might be raised for this purpose. I think that, whenever we endeavour to do any thing, we should ask the blessing of God upon our endeavours, and when we pray, I think that the best way to insure an answer to our prayers is to show that we are willing to do all in our power to accomplish the thing prayed for. I have thought of proposing to this Conference, that in order to keep up a regular supply of tracts for circulation that we might set apart one Sabbath every month or six weeks, for fasting and prayer for the spread of the work of God, and that the means accumulated by the day's fasts should form a fund for the purchase of tracts. By these means we would be proving to the Lord that we are willing to do all in our power for the spread of the principles of truth, and could more reasonably expect the Lord to answer our prayers for that purpose. I have known such means been adopted, and have proved

* See note at the end.

successful to the bringing in of many into the kingdom of God. Some of the saints may be afraid that fasting will be injurious to their health, but let me assure you, from my own experience that it will be quite otherwise; for, oftentimes, fasting is more beneficial than injurious to the body, still none are requested to do that which is beyond their strength, but if they can put faith in God, they will find that their strength will be increased.

After a few remarks, made by Elders Milnes and Heaton, on tract distribution, and having signified their approval of the means suggested by Elder Menzies, for the raising of a tract fund,

It was moved by Elder Menzies, that every first Sabbath of the month be set apart as a day of fasting and prayer, for the spread of the work, in this Conference, and that a collection be taken up at the close of each meeting; and that this be attended to by every branch in the Conference, upon the same day, that our united faith, prayers and works may ascend before God, as a testimony that we desire the prosperity of his cause, upon the face of the earth. Seconded and carried.

Also, Resolved that the time of fasting be from Saturday night till Sunday, at twelve o'clock, and from two o'clock till Monday morning.

Elder Menzies then remarked, I understand that it has been the practice of some parties, when they leave a branch, to go to another without having received their certificates from the branch they belonged to; now, such things ought not to be. No president should fellowship any person or persons until they have first produced their lines, and these, to be legal, must be printed. None should leave a branch until they have received their lines, but if necessity should compel them to leave before they could get them, they ought, immediately upon getting settled, to write for them to the president of the branch they left. No president should give a certificate until he has first brought the matter before the council, ascertained the standing of the member, and taken a vote of the branch upon it. This will preserve good order, and save us a great deal of trouble in the future.

Resolved—That the collections taken up on the first fast day, in all the branches of the Conference, be sent into Bradford, to purchase tracts for the travelling Elders, and defray the expences of printing circulars or invitations to accompany the tracts, and that Elder Milnes be appointed to receive these monies.

After the first fast day, the collections will be at the disposal of the council of each branch, for the purchase of tracts, &c.

Proposed by Elder Menzies that this quarter's report be printed, and that each branch have a proportionate number of them: seconded and carried.

Elder Menzies said, I have a desire to see every branch in this Conference regulated in the same manner, so that we may be one in all things, and governed according to the same principles. I do not see any thing to hinder all the Conference from conducting their business alike. I want to see every member in this Conference visited at stated times. It is the duty of the Teachers to visit each member. This I want to see done regularly, once a fortnight, and a report of these visitations brought into the Council. Also, it is the duty of the Priests to visit each member, and I want them to do so, being accompanied by the Elder of the district, and to bring in their report to the council once a month; and also that the Elders and Priests endeavour to obtain places for preaching, in their districts, and attend to the distribution of tracts, and once a fortnight report their success. The Elder ought to be held responsible for the performance of these duties, so that he must either distribute the tracts himself or get others to assist him. When the Teachers go to visit they ought to go two by two, if possible, and should avoid, as much as possible, Sunday visiting. When the Teachers go into a house, they ought to let the family know the purpose of their visit, so that they might call them together to receive their instructions. This ought to be strictly attended to; instead of entering into conversation upon any thing and everything but the real object of their visit; and when

the house is called to order, then get down upon your knees and pray for them, and proceed to teach them. Let the members when visited, call their families together, and lay their minds open to the visiting officers. The officers ought strictly to attend to their own district; and let every other officer do the same, as a different course would tend to create jealousy and division among the saints. Let every officer beware that he meddle not with the affairs of another district. It is the duty of the President of each branch to see that all these things be attended to.

When difficulties arise between the members, instead of going to the President of the branch, or to any other Elder, they ought first to go to the person with whom they are offended, and if the matter cannot be settled between themselves, then tell it to the Teachers of their district, whose duty it is to enquire if they have attended to their duty towards the party themselves; if they have not, let the Teacher instruct them to go and endeavour to be reconciled, and when he next visits them, let him enquire if their difficulties are settled, and if they are not, it is then his duty to bring the parties face to face and have reconciliation made. By pursuing this course, almost all matters of difficulty that arise among the saints may be settled at this point. If the Teachers cannot settle it, then it will be necessary to have it brought before the notice of the President, and let him do with it as he thinks fit.

I do not want persons to come to me for council, or to state their difficulties until they have first gone to the President of their branch, and had their difficulties brought to his notice through the proper channel, and if matters cannot be settled by these means, then it would become my duty to investigate them, but not till then. When people come to me with stories, I endeavour to send them back the road they came. If this course was more generally pursued, all backbiting and evilspeaking would soon be at an end. Talk about a millenium! but we never can enjoy one so long as these things exist. I do not talk at random. I know that these things exist to a greater or less extent in all the branches of this Conference; but it is my determination to bring such things to an end, by all the means in my power, knowing that the prosperity of the work of God greatly depends on our being at peace one with another.

The number of Officers was then taken as follows:—36 Elders, 27 Priests, 31 Teachers, and 9 Deacons.

It was then proposed by Elder Menzies, that this Conference stand adjourned until Sunday, the 8th day of June, 1851, seconded and carried.

Elder Menzies read a letter from Elder Marsden to Brother Taylor, the General Agent, in which Elder Marsden requested as many as desired to obtain his likeness to send their orders as soon as possible to Brother Taylor. Elder Menzies also stated that he had on hand 11 pairs of the best, and 23 pairs of the second quality of the busts of Joseph and Hiram Smith. He desired the saints to come forward and purchase them, as it would be necessary for him to get rid of them, as soon as possible, that he might remit the money to the office at Liverpool. He remarked, I like Joseph and Hiram well enough, but I do not like too many of them.

A Hymn being sung, the meeting was dismissed by thanksgiving by Elder Westwood, at a little after four o'clock.

## EVENING.

In the evening, the meeting being opened by singing and prayer, a few appropriate and stirring remarks were made by Elders Westwood, Midgley, Heaton, Milnes, Child and Jackson, after which, Elder Menzies rose and said, I wish to lay before the saints the necessity of compliance with the law of tithing as taught in this Church. At the present time, beloved saints, we are without a house in which we might receive our washings and anointings. The house which we had built in Nauvoo, for this purpose, has been destroyed by our enemies, and our

brethren, with their wives, and their little ones, have been plundered of all they possessed, and have been driven into the wilderness, to live or die as they best may! We require to receive our endowments to qualify us to carry the Gospel, with power, to other nations. Seeing that we cannot receive our endowments except in the Temple of the Lord, and that House requires to be built, I would urge upon the saints the necessity of immediately complying with the law of tithing, that the house of the Lord might be reared in the mountains, in which we may receive our anointings. I would say to the saints, do not wait until you go yourselves, neither wait until you be asked to comply with this law, but down with your dust, and let it be forwarded as soon as possible to the proper quarter. It is your duty to give one tenth of all you possess, and, I would say let it be done now, let the means be sent, that the way may be preparing for us to receive our blessings when we go.

There is another thing I wish to mention, Elder John Taylor has taken the responsibility of the translation of the Book of Mormon, and, if I recollect right, of the books of Doctrine and Covenants also, into the French Language. Brother Franklin D. Richards, in calling upon the saints to support Elder Taylor in this undertaking, remarks, in the Star, that he should be happy if some rich Yorkshire merchant would come forward and bear the expence. I wish that I could find this merchant out; but be that as it may, it is evident that Brother Richards expects something to be done by Yorkshire; and it is my wish that he should not be disappointed. I therefore propose that the Presidents, immediately upon their return to their respective branches, appoint treasurers to receive donations to assist Elder Taylor in his glorious undertaking. Seconded and carried.

Elder Menzies concluded his remarks with a few words of instruction to the Priesthood, relative to the message which they have to bear to this generation, instructing them, that in all their teachings, they ought to bear testimony to the fact, that God hath spoken from the heavens, and called and authorized men to teach and administer the ordinances and blessings of the Everlasting Gospel even as in former ages. This is the message of life to this generation, if they receive it, and death if they reject it. But let the brethren teach and instruct this generation, upon these subjects, with meekness and in a becoming manner, and not wilfully injure the feelings of those who are honestly prejudiced against us.

The meeting was closed, by singing and thanksgiving, and the saints separated, having enjoyed a day of peace and rejoicing in the Holy Ghost, and with an evident resolution to exert themselves, more than hitherto, to make known the principles of life and salvation, to all who are willing to hear.

Collections were taken up during the day for the travelling Elders.

NOTE.

The Presidents of Branches are desired to include in their next representations the whole of the following items, namely, the name of the branch, the President's name and address, the number of Elders, Priests, Teachers, Deacons and Members, separately, and then the total number of officers and members together, the number baptized, the number received by letter from branches in the Conference, and the number received by letter from branches out of the Conference, the number removed by letter to branches in the Conference, and the number removed by letter out of the Conference, the number of scattered members connected with each branch, the number cut off, the number emigrated and the number dead.

The Presidents will bring or send, to Bradford, a report, containing all the items already mentioned, in sufficient time for a council meeting, to be held in Bradford, at seven o'clock, on Saturday night previous to Conference, for the purpose of arranging the business of the next day; and also it is necessary that a list of the names of all who are to be called to office be sent in at the same time, stating to what office they are to be called, what office they at present hold, if any; and let all the alterations or appointments to office be laid before their respective branches, at least one week before the Conference. These things we wish particularly attended to.

ELDER ROBERT O. MENZIES, President.
ELDER JONATHAN MIDGLEY, Clerk.